

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A piercing device ~~wherein comprising:~~

a first shaft having a first axis;

a second shaft having a second axis, the second axis being eccentrically arranged relative to the first axis;

an outer tube is tube rotatably supported on one of shafts, which are eccentrically arranged relative to each other, the first shaft so that it the outer tube can be driven for rotation, rotation;

wherein a plurality of piercing needles are arranged rotatably supported on the other of the shafts in said outer tube, second shaft via needle support members, said plurality of piercing needles being spaced from each other in a circumferential direction, and projecting radially outwards, and being independently rotatable, each said about the second axis with respect to each other, the piercing needle-needles each being adapted to be extended extendable and retracted-retractable relative to an outer surface of the outer tube, tube via a through hole-holes formed in the outer tube, tube; and

wherein a needle restraining member is member rotatably supported on said the other the second shaft, for transmitting torque to the piercing needles when driven for rotation, rotation, wherein said piercing needles are rotatably supported on said the other shaft via needle support members, respectively, and wherein said piercing needles and further piercing needles, which are rotatable integrally with the said piercing needles, are fixedly connected to said needle support members in an axial juxtaposition with each other.

2. (Currently Amended) The piercing device according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the outer tube and ~~said~~ the needle support members are connected to a driving means for driving them at a constant speed.

3. (Currently Amended) The piercing device according to claim 1, wherein a rotating radius of ~~said~~ the outer surface of the outer tube and a rotating radius of a tip end of ~~each said piercing needle~~ the plurality of piercing needles are the same with respect to each other, and an amount of eccentricity of ~~said~~ the first and second shafts is within a range of 10-15 mm.

4. (Currently Amended) The piercing device according to claim 2, wherein a rotating radius of ~~said~~ the outer surface of the outer tube and a rotating radius of a tip end of ~~each said piercing needle~~ the plurality of piercing needles are the same with respect to each other, and an amount of eccentricity of ~~said~~ the first and second shafts is within a range of 10-15 mm.